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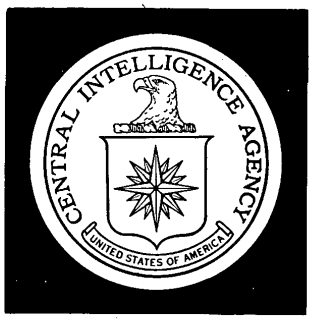

The President's Daily Brief

31 ~~30~~ *May 1970*

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Cable, 31 May 70

CAMBODIA

The government has decided to evacuate the town of Lomphat, one of its three remaining major outposts in the northeast. Two battalions there will be sent a few miles north to Labansiek, which lies astride the principal road to the South Vietnamese border. Lomphat was under heavy attack last night, and the Cambodian battalions there may have difficulty getting out. 50X1

In the south, South Vietnamese and Cambodian forces have chased the Viet Cong from Prey Veng town, ILLEGIB The Communists are harassing Svay Rieng town, and they have destroyed a large bridge on the route connecting Svay Rieng with South Vietnam. These actions point up the fact that, despite ARVN operations, the Communists are still ILLEGIB capable of harassing Cambodian and ARVN-defended positions.

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PDB CABLE, 31 MAY 70

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MIDDLE EAST

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Military actions along the Arab-Israeli cease-fire lines are continuing this weekend, with the heaviest activity on the Israeli-Egyptian front. Israeli planes hit again at the port of Safaga in the Gulf of Suez, and two Egyptian raiding parties crossed the Suez Canal in the north to strike at Israeli positions there.

50X1

A meeting in Khartoum late last week of Libyan, Egyptian, and Sudanese leaders appears to have produced nothing but rhetoric and another Arab call for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories. Nasir in his speech noted that any moves of the three countries toward greater unity would have to be approved by their people. Libyan chief Qadhafi has begun a tour of the Arab states apparently to encourage greater unity of action against Israel. Qadhafi's tour and the Khartoum meeting are forerunners of a new meeting in Cairo of the "confrontation" states -- Jordan, Syria, Iraq, and Egypt -- planned for 5 June.

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SOUTH VIETNAM

The central highlands city of Dalat was hit yesterday by a Communist force believed to be a reinforced local battalion. Small groups of enemy soldiers attacked a number of South Vietnamese military positions in and around the city and shelled several others. Other enemy bands at the same time occupied a small portion of the residential area of the city and took over a Catholic seminary and a school.

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The attacks against the military targets were repulsed without great difficulty. As of last night, however, there still were pockets of enemy resistance

ILLEGIB

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In Saigon, anti-government agitation still simmers. On Friday more than 1,000 students, using the occasion of the funeral of former chief of state Phan Khac Suu, ~~on Friday,~~ passed out anti-Thieu leaflets and shouted anti-government slogans. Police finally dispersed them with tear gas. On the same day there was also a considerably smaller demonstration by disabled veterans.

50X1

A number of militant An Quang Buddhists have begun a hunger strike that is to culminate in a march on the presidential palace on 2 June. The militants intend their demonstration both as an anti-war protest and a demand that the government charter recognizing the rival Quoc Tu faction as the official Buddhist church be revoked. The An Quang leadership, however, is not united behind the demonstration; some fear that the march on the palace could result in violence.

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